

Lewis and Clark County Mental Health Local Advisory Council
Intermountain Conference Room
Tuesday, March 5, 2019, 11:30 a.m.

Mission Statement: The purpose of the LAC is to assist in the improvement of Lewis and Clark County public mental health services and to review and make recommendations about Lewis and Clark County's public mental health services to the Lewis and Clark County Commissioners, as well as provide input and recommendations to the State of Montana's Mental Health Oversight Advisory Council (MHOAC) and the State of Montana's Service Area Authority (SAA) serving the community.

Minutes

1. Call to Order and Reading of the Mission Statement

Jill Steeley called the meeting to order and Shane Gabriel read the LAC mission.

Members in Attendance: Jill Steeley(Chair), Matt Furlong (Vice Chair), John Wilkinson (Past Chair), Drenda Niemann, Ray Roberts, Annie Maixner, Bob Stewart, Vee Yang, Kimberly Gardner, Shane Gabriel, Brian Coplin, Cory Bailey, Katie Jerstad, Michelle Marshal, and Jess Hegstrom.

Guests in Attendance: Jillian DeAmicis-Danesi, Dennis Nyland, Michael O'Neil, Charlie McCarthy, Brandy Vail, and Curt Chisholm.

Staff in Attendance: Jocelyn Olsen and Kellie McBride.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Meeting minutes from February 5, 2019 were approved.

3. Housing is Healthcare Project – Michael O'Neil

Michael O'Neil provided an overview of the Housing is Healthcare Project, funded by the Montana Healthcare Foundation. Mr. O'Neil stated that the focus of this project is to first identify individuals in the community who are unstably housed or homeless, who are also repeatedly using community resources but not necessarily being helped to the point of recovery or rehabilitation. Mr. O'Neil pointed out the cost to health on the individual as well as the great cost put on community resources to repeatedly provide their services to the same individual, emphasizing that the cost to help this individual find permanent, supportive housing is more affordable.

Mr. O'Neil explained that the Project supports cross systems data sharing to help identify the aforementioned individuals in the community then develop an implementation strategy focused on permanent, affordable, and stable housing. Community resources have begun to transition their focus from a first-come, first-served basis to having individuals complete an assessment to identify those with

greatest need and serving them first. Research has shown that serving individuals with the greatest need by connecting them to stable housing first, especially housing that has on-site support services, will save the system a tremendous amount of money.

Mr. O'Neil stated that leading partners of the Housing is Health Project are St. Peter's Health, Helena Housing Authority, and United Way of Lewis and Clark Area. Many other organizations such as Criminal Justice Services, PureView, Public Health, are participating in this Project. Kim Gardner suggested that Child and Family Services and Family Treatment Court also be brought in to the conversation. Matt Furlong inquired about having University Engineering programs help in the design of affordable housing that is in fact affordable and appropriate for Montana weather.

4. Healthy Together Update – Drenda Niemann

Jill Steeley explained that every three years key partners in the community come together to create a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) based on community data. This year five agencies make up the Steering Committee which has guided the creation of the most up-to-date Healthy Together CHIP: Public Health, PureView, St. Peter's Health, Rocky Mountain Development Council, and United Way. This Committee began meeting in January 2019 and have continued to meet each month on the first Monday from 8:30am to 12pm at St. Peter's Health, updating the CHIP data and setting goals for the years ahead.

The two broad topics selected by the Steering Committee are Behavioral Health (with a focus on prevention and stigma reduction, and access to care) and Early Childhood (with a focus on Adverse Childhood Experiences, and early care and education). Drenda Niemann explained that at the last Healthy Together meeting, they split into different workgroups. A report was given by Jess Hegstrom regarding the workgroup conversation around prevention and stigma reduction. Ms. Steeley provided a report from the screening and access to care workgroup and Ms. Niemann provided a report regarding systems coordination and referrals. The next and final meeting for Healthy Together will be held on April 1, 2019 from 8:30am to 12pm in the St. Peter's Health Education Room.

Ms. Steeley explained that one focus of the April LAC meeting will be updating the group regarding the goals and strategies created at the last Healthy Together meeting. The May LAC meeting will include an open discussion on where in the CHIP the LAC can contribute.

5. Quick Workgroup Reports

a. One – Effectiveness, Accessibility, Quality of Services

John Wilkinson and Ms. Niemann provided an update on Workgroup One. The lack of data in this County is still a major issue that this group hopes to address. They have also been looking at utilization and accessibility of services. The focus

moving forward will be reaching out to specific agencies and asking for aggregated utilization data.

Kellie McBride shared that Justice Management Institute has been researching all data systems regarding the criminal justice system in Lewis and Clark County and will present their finding and provide direction to the County on March 6, 2019 from 12pm to 2pm on the first floor of the courthouse. Kim Gardner provided the group with specific data regarding Emergency Room visits related to mental health.

b. Two – Community Outreach

Ms. Hegstrom stated that this group discussed tabling and outreach, encouraging agencies to participate in events throughout town. This group also plans to coordinate the next legislative breakfast and ensure further distribution of the Mental Health Resource Guide.

c. Three – Gaps in Services

Matt Furlong explained the importance of peer supports in our community and explained that this group has been working on finding a way to enter peer support resources in the 2-1-1 database, specifically how to identify peer support in the 2-1-1 database in a manner that is accessible to those navigating the database.

Mr. Furlong stated that SB30 regarding peer support is still being reviewed. Michelle Marshal shared that a bill has been written for mobile crisis units so that will be up for review soon.

6. Public Comment

Annie Maixner shared that there is filming occurring in town called “Make the Connection” which will focus on mental health treatment experienced by veterans in our community.

Brian Coplin shared that he is in crisis and is in need of help from community partners. Brian explained that he believes there are too many gaps in services in the community and there are far too many people not receiving the help they need.

Mr. Furlong explained that the Central Service Area Authority (CSA) is funding 30 positions to attend an Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) in the first or second week of May. The CSA oversees 15 counties and hopes to send two individuals from each County. There will potentially be open positions left that Jess Hegstrom will help fill, getting more people involved.

May is Mental Health month and Mr. Furlong believes that the LAC should find a way to get involved for example, applying for a mini-grant from the CSA to host a screening of the film "Wrestling Ghost".

Curt Chisholm shared on behalf of NAMI that Carol Kivler will be giving a talk in the All Saints Hall of Carroll College on March 18, 2019 entitled "Transforming the Face of Depression and Anxiety".

7. Next Meeting

April 2, 2019

8. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 12:30pm.